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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



[The Editor is not responsible for opinions expressed in this Department.]

BACK NUMBERS OF THE JOURNAL WANTED

I

DEAR EDITOR: May I ask through your columns if there are any who will dispose of their back numbers of the JOURNAL for 1911, up to the August number. If so, will they please write directly to me and give their prices.

Ocilla, Georgia.

LORENA J. BAKER.

II

DEAR EDITOR: I would like to ask through the JOURNAL if there is someone who would like to dispose of back copies of the JOURNAL. I wish to obtain the following four numbers: January, February, March, and April, 1908.

1154 19th Street, Des Moines, Iowa.

MARTHA VEITCH, R.N.

III

The secretary of the American Nurses' Association, Agnes G. Deans (174 West Fifth Street, Oswego, N. Y.), wishes to purchase six copies of the JOURNAL for August, 1911, and will pay twenty-five cents apiece for them. Please communicate with Miss Deans before sending the magazines.

IV

The following copies of the JOURNAL are needed to complete the file destroyed by fire at the State Capitol, Albany, N. Y.: October, November, and December, 1900; and November, 1901. If any nurse is willing to donate these, she should address them to Dr. H. L. Taylor, Education Department, Albany, N. Y.

AN EMERGENCY ROOM

DEAR EDITOR: Will you please tell me where I can get information in regard to an emergency room in a town where there is no hospital. I would like to know about how much it would cost to furnish it, and what the equipment usually is, also how much it would cost to run it after it was fully equipped. How ought it to be started to be successful.

Vermont.

E. S. G., R.N.

HOMŒOPATHIC MATERIA MEDICA

DEAR EDITOR: I am a graduate of a training school connected with an allopathic hospital, and at present am in charge of a training school connected with a homœopathic hospital.

I feel that I must give the nurses sufficient instruction in materia medica to enable them to pass their state examination, and yet, as you probably know, homœopathic physicians do not think that it is necessary for them to have a very broad knowledge of materia medica.

To be quite frank with you, my own knowledge of homœopathic materia medica is limited, so that the problem of deciding, not only what to teach the nurses, but how best to teach them, is a very difficult one for me to solve. If someone who had solved this problem will kindly send me suggestions as to how to teach homœopathic materia medica, what to teach, and the name of the best text-book to use, it will be a very great help to me. It is not only a question of my solving this for my own satisfaction, but I am anxious to solve it in a way that will do justice to the nurses and give satisfaction to the physicians.

I assure you that I shall be most grateful to anyone who will send me any helpful advice.

Pennsylvania.

"PUZZLED TEACHER."

AN APPEAL TO THE BOARDS OF EXAMINERS

DEAR EDITOR: These published questions of the boards of examiners of nurses are beginning to make an impression upon me, and these last, from Colorado, have gotten me on to my feet and I beg leave to "speak in meetin'."

I do not single out Colorado because it is especially different from the others, but rather because it isn't, and so it makes a good specimen for clinical treatment.

I need not remind you that Colorado does a very extensive work in the nursing of tuberculosis. Just whether *all* of those tuberculosis patients *should* be in Colorado or not is a different story. They *are* there, and Colorado is bravely taking care of them.

Now please get out your October JOURNAL and run your eye carefully over those examination questions. The word tuberculosis *does not appear*—even under "Contagious Diseases," not even an allusion to it, except possibly, "Name five air-borne diseases." Medical nursing touches upon pulmonary hemorrhage. Bacteriology would probably draw out something about it—but might not. That is *all* on the subject. Anatomy asks: "State the chief difference between the coats of the arteries and veins." Physiology asks: "What are the mastoid cells?" Now these last two questions have a right, even, perhaps, an important place in the educational equipment of a nurse. *But what about tuberculosis?*

World statistics tell us that one death out of every seven is from tuberculosis. What about the nursing of this disease that causes fourteen per cent. of all deaths and therefore a considerable percentage of all the world's nursing?

We all know how meagre is the training school instruction on this subject. Are the examining boards going to let this dangerous ignorance continue under the dignified patronage of R.N.? Heaven forbid! And I know whereof I speak when I say that there is dangerous ignorance. It is no secret that many nurses absolutely refuse to respond to calls from tuberculosis cases.

Why? Because they are afraid of it! Why are they afraid of it? Because they do not know (never having been sufficiently taught) how to take care of it with safety to themselves.

And what is the remedy? According to Miss Stewart, in the September JOURNAL, it is more education—and she is right.

If an applicant coming up for registration has not had enough obstetrics, she is sent back to get more. If she hasn't enough of dietetics she must get it. If her school did not give her bacteriology she must go back somewhere else and